

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 12-24 constitute all currently pending claims.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103

In the Office Action dated November 24, 2006, the Examiner indicates that claims 11-19 are objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 is hereby amended to include all limitations of claim 11, claim 11 is canceled, and claim 16 is rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of claim 1.

Claims 2-10, 12-15 and 20-23 depend directly or indirectly from amended claim 1. Claims 17-19 depend directly or indirectly from amended claim 16. Thus, all pending claims 1-10 and 12-23 are now patentable at least by virtue of their dependence from amended claims 1 and 16.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

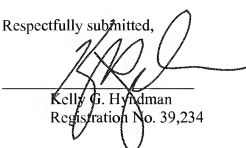
Applicant herewith petitions the Director of the USPTO to extend the time for reply to the above-identified Office Action for an appropriate length of time if necessary. Unless a check is attached, any fee due under 37 U.S.C. § 1.17(a) is being paid via the USPTO Electronic Filing

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No.: 10/817,429

Attorney Docket No.: Q80887

System (EFS). The USPTO is also directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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